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The Pastor Speaks:

TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

XXXIX. LOVING OTHERS AS JESUS HAS LOVED US

OUR last article was a little longer than we expected, but we did not deal completely with the subject. We came to the conclusion that, being one in the Mystical Body, we must see in every man, every neighbour, every brother, Christ Himself, so that the love we give to any of our brethren is given to Christ Himself. Union with our neighbour brings as a natural consequence union with our Divine Head, Jesus Christ.

But today we wish to go still further and show that we must love our neighbour as Christ Himself loves him. It seems impossible but it is so. We find in the Gospel of St. John that beautiful scene in which Christ, on the eve of His death, leaves to His dear children His last will, His precept: "This is My commandment, that you should love one another, as I have loved you." (John XV, 12).

A Crescendo in Love

There is a marvellous crescendo in this race of love. First, we must love ourselves, and love

others in the same measure as we love ourselves. Then comes a second step: we must love Christ Jesus. Our Lord and Redeemer, love Him more than ourselves; immediately comes the order that we must love our brethren as we love Christ,—which means more than ourselves. Not satisfied with this, now comes the Commandment of Jesus, who loves us more than we love Him, asking that we must love our neighbour as Christ loves him. It might seem absurd.

Now, Christ's love towards our brethren is not simply a human love but a divine love; the

love He has shown to us and practise towards us. It is a new commandment. Christ Himself presented it as such, for He knew it would surprise anybody who would hear it. "I have a new commandment to give you, that you are to love one another; that your love for one another is to be like the love I have borne you." (John XIII, 34).

It is His Commandment, the Commandment of a God, the Commandment of God made Man, who will soon die for the salvation of mankind, of men, of our neighbours, our brethren, and ourselves. We have to love others as if we were He,—in an infinite manner, in a divine way.

This is possible only if we live in Him, with Him and of Him. And if we are really incorporated with Him in the Mystical Body, then we live in Him, with Him and of Him. When, like St. Paul writing to the Philippians (I, 21), we can say: "For me to live means Christ," or when writing to the Galatians (II, 20), "Yet I am alive; or rather, not I, it is Christ that lives in me",—then we shall really be able to love as Christ has loved us. Our love then will not only be for those who love us, but even for those who persecute us, for our enemies, as Christ has also prescribed: "I tell you, love your enemies, do good to them who hate you, pray for those who persecute and insult you, that so you may be true sons of your Father in heaven." (Math. V, 44).

As Christ Loves Them

To see that all Christians, Members of the Mystical Body, love their Head, Christ, who loves all

the members: love their brother whom they meet, with whom they live, as Christ loves him, that is, with purity, respect, unselfishness, loving our brother, and every brother without any discrimination, poor or rich, old or young, good or bad, loving or repugnant, not excluding any, not even the criminals, for we must love as the Redeemer of all has loved;—that is to put into practice His commandment, His will. The commandment of charity is the essence of the Christian life, the specific precept of the Lord, the principal object of our final judgement, the true realisation of a Better World, of an anticipated paradise. God could not ask us for better and greater things.

"God is love," says St. John; "he who dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him." (I John, IV, 16). Does this mean that charity, love, is the quick way to reach union with God; or is it already the result of that union of fusion with God? Both expressions are true and, when considered in the truth of the Mystical Body, then they acquire a still deeper meaning. Incorporated in God, in Christ, love or charity dwells permanently in God, in Christ. Therefore He acts for us, and it is no more we that live and act, but it is He who lives, acts, loves in us and for us. Let us try to live our spiritual life in accordance with the above truth. This will also give us the most efficacious way of sanctifying ourselves, namely, to deal always with our brethren as it behoves children of God, since they are also children of the same God; to be treated by others in the same way, and to

see everybody treating his or her neighbour with such charity—what a spectacle it would be for the unbelievers!

Truly this is the way to renew the face of the world, and to see

the words of Christ fulfilled, "that the world may come to believe that it is Thou who has sent Me."

✠ L. MATHIAS,

Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore.

Inauguration of Stella Matutina Training College

ON July the 23d, 1961, St. Thomas' Convent, Mylapore, in its most glorious festive mood, welcomed a distinguished Visitor coming on behalf of the Very Reverend Mother General from Rome to bring joy and gladness to all hearts in the Convents of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Madras.

The first of the many works of Education clustering around the old sanctuary of the Rosary Church in San Thome to welcome Mother Visitor was the last arrival chronologically. Stella Matutina B. T. College, which opened officially on July 1st 1961, was to be inaugurated on this occasion. In the evening at 6 p.m. the Superiors of all the F.M.M. Convents of Madras gathered at the Palace Road entrance to welcome His Grace the Most Reverend Dr L. Mathias, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, who kindly consented to preside. Shortly after, Rev. Father L. D. Murphy, S.J., of Loyola College, arrived to deliver the inaugural address. The guests of honour were received in traditional Indian style by the students, arrayed in their academic robes, and led to the main lecture hall on the second floor. There, the crest of Stella Matutina College was portrayed in delicate decorations and a large brass lamp was placed before it in the midst of a beautiful floral design prepared by the students. In the inaugural ceremony, the students called upon Mother Visitor to light the symbolic lamp while they in turn pledged them-

selves to keep alight in the souls of children, the flame of love and truth by firm fidelity to the ideals of the College.

The guests were then invited to visit the College. They admired the large well-installed class-rooms, the Library, the Laboratory and the Craft Room, and thought of all that this college, now in its incipient stage, would one day hold.

At the Reception Ceremony held in the Ground Floor Hall, since the inclemency of the weather did not permit the use of the out-door theatre, the students greeted His Grace and the Very Reverend Mother Visitor with joyful songs and a warm address of welcome read by Miss Madhavi, M.A., President of the Students' Union. After according a cordial welcome to His Grace and Rev. Fr. Murphy, the Priests, Religious, and other eminent guests, Miss Madhavi paid a special tribute to Reverend Mother Visitor who had come on behalf of Very Rev. Mother General to open officially the new Training College.

85 Years in India

The inauguration ceremony was a symbol of all that the Superiors

had in mind as they launched this fresh phase of educational work in India. Mother Visitor had just lighted a lamp, the flame of which would burn for generations to come, the flame of a great ideal in Education which dated back to 1876, when Mother Mary of the Passion founded the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in India. She created then a valiant band of Religious who would be pioneers in every branch of Educational, Medical and Social work in this country and throughout the five Continents.

Her greatest concern lay with the under-privileged, and yet her all-embracing love of souls led her to open schools for every condition of child. This impulse for women's education was furthered by the labours of the Very Rev. Mother St. Michael, who founded St. Raphael's Girls' High School in 1913 and multiplied schools of all grades in South India. Her far-seeing policy was taken up by the Very Rev. Mother Clemens, the present Rev. Mother Provincial, who opened the Secondary Training Department in 1931. The great impetus that she gave to the cause of Secondary Education led inevitably to the demand for a College, and in 1947, Stella Maris College was inaugurated on the day of Indian Independence. All these great Educators had consistently maintained their educational centres along the traditional Indian lines, supplementing the ancient culture they respected and admired with the discipline and pedagogy of modern educational standards. Finally, Rev. Mother Clemens, returning to Madras after launching fresh schools in Andhra

Pradesh, was able to realise the crowning hope of her educational achievements when she began to plan the B.T. College which was being inaugurated by the Representative of the Very Rev. Mother General.

Hope and Solicitude

This College was therefore an object of hope and of solicitude for the Superiors ; of hope, because like the lamp which lights another lamp, the Teacher hands on from generation to generation the light of Truth and Charity, Motto of the F.M.M. Colleges and Schools ; of solicitude, because the formation of the Teachers is the standard with which we shall measure things to come—the light by which we can peer into the future, that future we would desire so make radiant and beautiful for the New India we hold so dear.

To their Beloved and Reverend Mother Visitor the students owed a promise. As the first students of Stella Matutina it would be their sacred trust to hand on the light untarnished—bright with the fervour and love they had at heart for the ideal of their teaching vocation. They wanted to become teachers in the truest sense of the word, dedicated to their great Profession, so that the ideals of Stella Matutina might be transmitted worthily through their years of generous and devoted service to the Youth of India. Only in that way could be sincerely realised the name of their College—"Stella Matutina," the Morning Star, which rising gave hope of the bright and glorious Day to come. They realised their own insufficiency for that noble calling which

exacted such high standards from one and all. Therefore their trust was in God, Who regarded the humble and rejected the proud, and they prayed that our Lady, Stella Matutina, might implore for them all the graces needed in their sublime vocation. To their Beloved and Reverend Mother Visitor the students pledged their loyalty and sincerity in this upward path of duty and responsibility. The example of their Superiors was held before them, and all that this International Institute upheld. They learnt of its vast programme which was based upon true charity—the love of God and the love of their neighbour. To their Very Reverend Mother General, whom she represented for them that day, they tendered their gratitude and filial affection. The new College she had opened in Madras City must not fail her expectations and they promised to strive not to disappoint her. To their dear Rev. Mother Provincial they also extended a cordial greeting and their thanks for the College which was the fruit of her desire and initiative. They hoped that she would continue to sustain them by her prayers so that they might rise to her aspirations. To the Rev. Mother Superior, who had borne so generously all the initial sacrifice and labour, they expressed publicly on that occasion their sincere thanks and appreciation.

The Rev. Mother Visitor was so pleased with Miss Madhavi's speech of welcome that she put her silver garland around her neck, but Miss Madhavi returned the compliment by re-garlanding the Guest of Honour.

The speeches of the evening

were punctuated by pleasant items in music, dance and song.

Truth and Charity

Miss B. Ahalya, M.A., L.T., extended in her turn a warm welcome to the honoured guests and expressed the gratitude and appreciation which the Staff and Students felt for the keen interest evinced by His Grace and Very Reverend Mother General for this new venture in teachers' education. She assured Reverend Mother Visitor of the whole-hearted co-operation of the trainers and trainees to work in the spirit of the *College Motto*, "Truth and Charity."

In his inaugural address, Reverend Father L. D. Murphy, S.J., imparted to the students that proverbial wisdom which makes of him an orator ever in demand on college platforms. He demonstrated to the students that, long after the utility of Mathematics, Science, Literature and History had faded from the pupils' minds, the light of their example and the moral training they had imparted would enable the students to live their lives more fully and to realise their eternal destiny.

Finally, His Grace Archbishop Mathias gave a memorable exhortation to the students. It was not merely the Pastor of Souls or the great Social Worker and Organiser who spoke, but the Teacher who was able to fire their souls with love and esteem for their noble profession. His Grace gave the B.T. students the consoling assurance that they were close to him here in Mylapore and very close to his heart.

The Stella Matutina B.T. College hopes to realise the great trust

reposed in it by the Ecclesiastical Authorities and the Superiors of the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Its task is to form good teachers who will not merely be professionally and technically fitted to fulfil their task honourably and conscientiously,

but above all, Educators in the fullest sense of the term, who will go forth from its portals filled with a great desire to serve India by imparting to the younger generation the highest ideals of love of God and love of country.

The Planning Committee at Work

A Parish Priest Discusses With 12 Lay Co-Workers

ON the 27th of July, 12 Parish lay co-workers had a full-day meeting with their Parish Priest at the Poonamallee Seminary to decide on some parochial activities to be carried on in the near future. The topic of the Salesian Cooperators came in, and they all agreed that their retreat should first be arranged; they decided that it should be held for the ladies of the parish from the 2nd to the 6th of October, and for the men from the 17th to the 20th.

Another activity is very dear to all; it is to help our people to have a greater spirit of faith in driving their vehicles and to obtain assistance from God for this purpose. Parishioners therefore are asked to entrust this work, which presents so many dangers in a city, to Our Heavenly Mother, the Help of Christians, so that she may help them to be careful and not to meet with an accident. It was therefore decided that on August 20th, the official blessing of the vehicles and vehicle owners and drivers should take place in the Parish.

Another topic which was discussed was the Liturgical Week on the Holy Mass which was fixed to take place in the Parish from the 27th of August to the 3rd of September, and together with the Liturgical Week to have an exhibition on the Holy Mass. All this was planned in order to instruct our people on the Holy Mass,

since we all realise how greatly ignorant our people are in the matter.

Other topics were then discussed, such as an appeal for more volunteers in the Parish to give at least two hours of their time every week to do some Parish and Social work; to improve the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, of the Pro-Seminario and of Night Education in the homes. Then it was decided to improve the sewing class for the poor people; to reorganize the cupboard of the poor, and to have familiar contact groups at B. R. Garden, Assirvadapuram and the Harbour locality.

Danger of Family Planning

A special point was discussed with regard to mothers who go to the maternity hospital, and two ladies were appointed for assisting every case, in order to help these mothers, to see that babies

do not die without baptism, and specially in order to prevent the danger of our women becoming victims of the Family Planning Campaign.

The last thought of the Parish Priest, which was accepted by everyone, like the previous decisions, was that more love towards the poor and the suffering should be shown, and in a more tangible manner it should be shown at Christmas and Easter, when a cover will be given to every

family to help the poorer people of the Parish and a pot will be given to all families who can at least put into it a few grains of rice every day for the very poor.

This full day of planning for action will certainly bring blessings on the Parish, and the work has begun already in full swing. May God bless the laity of St. Francis Xavier's who give such an amount of consolation to their Priests.

A Child's Conquest

(A tale of the Legionaries of St. Thomas' Convent, Mylapore.)

"**M**OTHER, mother, do not call me Maheswari in future, but call me Mary instead," were the words of Maheswari, a four-year-old girl who was studying in a Catholic school.

The mother, Sarojini, was surprised to hear this and she said, "Why, my child, it is a Christian name! Why do you want to change your own name?"

"Our teacher tells us stories daily about a holy mother whose name is Mary. Oh, mother, this holy mother is very good and beautiful. She lives in Heaven and she will take us to Heaven, if we love her. I saw her statue. Oh, it was beautiful! Please let me change my name."

Unable to refuse the request of her only girl, she answered in the affirmative.

A neighbour of this poor family was a Catholic man, who took an interest in the child, taught her prayers, and related more stories and miracles of Our Lady and the Saints, and gradually developed in her an interest in the Catholic

Religion.

In the poor locality a few legionaries conducted Catechism classes on Sundays. So one Sunday Mary's mother brought her to the Sunday School teacher and asked her whether she would allow her child to follow the Catechism class and, if so, to admit her child who desired so much to hear stories and miracles about Our Lady, the Holy Mother Mary.

Led by the Child

Sarojini brought her child regularly to Sunday School and often used to tell the Legionaries about Mary and her way of praying and telling stories about the Holy Mother. The teachers took advantage of Sarojini's friendship and often visited her house where they had the chance to see the father of the child and instruct the whole family.

Thus the parents and the legionaries became friends, and the latter gradually convinced them about our religion, introduced them to the priest, made arrangements for their instruction, and helped to increase in them the desire to become Catholics.

The Feast of Our Lady of Mysore was then chosen by the parents of Mary for their happy entry into the Catholic Faith. Arrangements were made by the

legionaries. Rev. Mother Superior supplied clothing for the new converts. On the 27th morning the whole family was taken into our faith and the next day both the father and mother of Mary received their first Holy Communion. The sweet little Mary witnessed her parents receiving Jesus into their hearts and breathed forth a tiny prayer to our Lady: "Holy Mother, help me also to receive Jesus after three years".

Scapular Day in Broadway

ONE way in which Our Blessed Lady wants to be the Help of Christians is by means of her holy Scapular. Many of our Parishioners have understood this very well. We have the consolation of being able to give proof of this from a register of the parochial archives which gives consoling statistics. In the year 1953, the Parish of Broadway held the first Scapular day on November 13th, when there was the blessing and imposition of 2090 Scapulars. It was a day which no one can forget, and on a smaller scale this attractive scene has been repeated in the imposition and distribution of Scapulars year after year, as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Scapulars Conferred.</i>
13-11-53.	2,090
13-10-54.	186
31-12-55.	592
24-5-56.	62
16-7-60.	188
16-7-61.	1,302

Total for 6 years 4,420

This year in a particular manner people were prepared for this and, due to the help of some of our co-workers, a large number of people received the Scapular. The

aim in doing this was to give this pledge of salvation to as many as possible and not to leave anyone in the Parish without this means of getting such an amount of blessings. On the 16th of July the beautiful scene of scapular imposition and distribution began early in the morning after the first Mass at 6 a.m. 891 Scapulars were blessed and given at the communion rail by Rev. Fr. Jacob, S.D.B., to parishioners who had already received the imposition in previous years but due to some reason had been deprived of it.

1,302 Scapulars in a Day

This was followed by the touching scene of the formal imposition on those who had never received in their life the blessed scapular from a Priest, which is an indispensable condition to enjoy the

benefits and privileges of the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Scapular imposition was performed according to the liturgical rite and it was done by the Parish Priest. It lasted for over five hours, from 6-00 in the morning to 11-15. There was not a minute's respite. A long queue of people one by one passed in front of Our Lady's altar and, kneeling before her, received with great devotion the Scapular. Since all the people could not receive it in the morning, at 4 o'clock p.m. again the scapular imposition began and it went on till 6-45, when everything was concluded with Eucharistic Benediction.

Immediately afterwards the Parish Priest went to the Harbour for the same ceremony to the parishioners of that locality. Their piety and devotion was something truly touching. The Service there concluded with a Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Jacob, S.D.B. On the morning of the feast, during all the Masses, sermons were preached on the

importance of the scapular, in Tamil by Fr. T. Mathew, S.D.B.; and in English by Fr. Jacob, S.D.B. Even in the week that followed July 16th, people continued for several days to go to the presbytery and kneel down to get officially, according to the rules of the Ritual, their scapulars. On July 16th itself 1,302 scapulars were imposed and the service lasted for over 9 hours. During the last nine years 4424 Parishioners received the scapular of Mount Carmel, excluding those who came from outside the parish. It is most consoling to realize that at most a handful of Parishioners have escaped this imposition of the scapular. May God bless all those who have received this weapon with which to fight against the devil and which draws down so many blessings on our people.

A word of thanks for this help given in organizing this activity in the Parish must go to Mr. Satyanathan, the Catechist, Mrs. K. S. Theresa, Mr. Sundaram, Mrs. B. Catherine and Mrs. Arokiamary.

DHYANA ASHRAM, MYLAPORE

Retreats to be held in October

- 1) 1st and 2nd. Catholic Workers' Union.
- 2) 3rd. to 8th. Salesian Sisters of Mary Immaculate.
- 3) 7th. evening to 8th. evening Members of the Y.C.W.
- 4) 15th. 16th. and 17th. Second Laymen's retreat.
- 5) 20th. 21st. and 22nd. Women Legionaries in English.
- 6) 27th. 28th. and 29th. Bon Secours Junior Girls.

S. Arulsami, Director.

Intentions for October 1961

General Intention: That Catholic centres of higher education may increase in number and resources.

Missionary Intention: For the more effective encouragement of the apostolate among educated men who have not yet seen the light of Faith.

The Late Mgr. John Mora, S.D.B.

By Very Rev. Fr. C. Valleggia, S.D.B.

THE Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee, celebrates its Silver Jubilee on the 8th of this month—September 1961. But the Alumni of this glorious Institution who have spent their formative years within its portals and its spacious halls, will assemble together with feelings of nostalgia mingled with joy for these celebrations, for the first two Rectors of the Seminary went to their reward in the course of the last two months. Mgr. Mora, the first Rector Emeritus, breathed his last on Saturday, 5th August 1961, and Very Rev. Fr. C. Mauri, the second Rector, died on 10th July last, while still in office.

Early Years

John Mora was born at Santa Christina, a little village nestling in the foothills of the Italian Alps. His parents, having the strong Faith which is characteristic of the peasant stock of rural Italy, tried to instill into their six children all that they considered most sacred on earth: the Faith. John was the second child and he showed right from the start that he was born for great things.

A Thorough Student

He was endowed with more than a fair share of intelligence, and he showed it early in his student career. He manifested a keen sense of perception and quickness to grasp the intricacies and finer points of the various subjects. He was always the first in the class. This success, however, was due in a great degree to his hard work. His mother testified to the fact that "John was never in the habit of going to bed in the evening without knowing his lessons

THOROUGHLY and without doing his home-work." He put his talents to full use when later, as a Salesian, he was afforded the chance of studying higher Mathematics and the sciences in the college at Valsalice. He was a great lover of the classical languages and Italian. His students will remember him reciting whole passages of the Latin Classics and quoting profusely in Latin from the Sacred Scriptures. Even in his last years he could recite long passages from Dante's "Divina Commedia."

Mgr. Mora was a man of clear ideas, and this was evident in his grasp of Moral Theology and Metaphysics, both of which he taught for many years in the Seminary. He could communicate with ease his knowledge to others. His clear and lucid explanations of difficulties often left his students wondering as to where actually the difficulty was.

His Vocation

John had made up his mind early in life as to what he was going to do with his future. So his parents were not surprised when, at the age of twenty—pure in body and soul, a young man with deep faith and strong convictions—he joined the Salesian Congregation. He went through his

early priestly and religious formation, under the able and kindly direction of Fr. John Zolin—a great Novice Master. He went through his course of philosophy at Valsalice and showed himself to be a brilliant student.

He endeared himself to his superiors and companions by his amiable character and great spirit of work. During his years of practical training at the school of St. John the Evangelist in Turin he was given a numerous class to look after. It is recorded that he conducted the classes most efficiently, and lived and practised the Salesian system of education which he had learned from the early followers of Don Bosco.

During his years of theological studies, Bro. Mora continued to distinguish himself in piety and in his capacity to learn the Sacred Sciences. These four years of study were utilized by him with the greatest possible diligence, as the proximate preparation for the dignity of the priesthood. Soon after his ordination he came to India to give to others what he had acquired by dint of hard work.

Spirit of Work

To say that Mgr. Mora was always busy is saying just too little of his spirit of work. In fact it was difficult to surmise how he could be doing so many things at the same time. He displayed this spirit of hard work during the years he spent in Tanjore, Shilong, Calcutta, Vellbre, Madras, Poonamallee and Yercaud. In the early days of the Seminary, besides being its Rector, he was also at the same time the Chancellor of

the Archdiocese (later also Vicar General), Treasurer, Diocesan Inspector of Schools, Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral, Chaplain of Fort St. George, Chaplain to the General Hospital and the Penitentiary, and the confessor of various convents. The fact that he was able to carry out all these duties and perform them efficiently during the lean years of the middle thirties shows his readiness and his capacity for work, and the great trust his Superiors placed in his ability.

Duty and Great Piety

Besides being a man of great intellectual capacity, a great teacher and a hard worker, he was, above all, a man of virtue, a man of great piety and adherence to duty. He was everywhere and at all times first and foremost the priest of God, sanctifying himself and making others sharers and beneficiaries of his priestly zeal. It was a source of edification to his confreres and his seminarians to see him saying Holy Mass and making his thanksgiving after it. He tried to inculcate in his seminarians the same spirit of piety that they might be worthy of their divine call.

His students will attest to the fact that he frowned on anything that took them away from their duties, especially their studies and practices of piety. His observance of community life and the time-table even during the months just before his death are worth recording. A perfect model of a religious, he kept to the end of his life the early training he received from the early sons of Don Bosco,—Don Rua of holy

memory, Don Zolin his saintly novice master, and others... His answer to his Rector during his last years—who asked him to keep some money with him in case of need—was, "Now that I am in the house, I must follow the community. I will come to you, Father, if I need anything..." His deep spirit of faith and piety were shown in his very countenance, and those who have been close associates with him and his seminarians will remember his insistence upon piety... piety... piety... and faith in God. A record in his diary dated 20 January 1955 reads: "I have been sent here to take care *provisoria* of the preparatory seminary of Mary Immaculate: Jesus and our Immaculate Mother are with me. Quem timebo?..."

A Father

His students, however, remember him always as a Father, one

who understood their difficulties, one who felt for them, one in whom they could confide their secrets, a sure guide to them through the vicissitudes of early seminary life. Through his fatherly guidance they found courage to face difficulties, enthusiasm in going through life, and generosity in accomplishing their duties. Some of them remember with feelings of reverent love and gratitude the many visits he used to pay them when they were sick and his consoling words which took away half their pain.

Indeed, Mgr. Mora has built up in the minds and hearts of his dear seminarians—now priests working in various parts of India and Siam—a monument of love and gratitude that time and space cannot efface. May God reward this generous soul amply for his arduous labours while on earth.—R.I.P.

A New Dispensary at the Harbour

It has always been the longing of everyone, and in a particular manner of the Parish Priest, to improve as much as possible the condition of the poor people of the Madras Harbour locality and no effort has been spared to this end up to now. During these last two years the Harbour locality has seen great improvement, and its Catholic community is well united and sees the effect of these improvements and efforts. The chapel gives them a chance of having Mass and religious services regularly. The night school with 150 children attending every night, well directed by Fr. T. Mathew, S.D.B., Assistant Parish Priest, gives them a chance of having their children educated. Now the Harbour locality people have a

clinic opened for them so that the sick also may be taken care of.

The formal opening of the Dispensary took place on the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady, on Independence Day. It was touching to see the co-operation the people gave while attending this opening ceremony. All the children of the night school were dressed in new clothes and

lined up at the First Line Beach, together with their teachers and the people at 6 o'clock, to meet the Sisters of the Mercy Home, Kilpauk, namely, the Salesian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. They welcomed them with great enthusiasm and took them processionaly to the Third Line Beach where the Parish had purchased a small plot of land and has a temporary chapel. The dreadful weather and heavy rain did not frighten them and did not diminish their enthusiasm, though it compelled us to eliminate part of our programme. The ceremony began with the hearty welcome given to the Sisters by Rev. Fr. Jacob, S.D.B., and then a few words of appreciation were spoken by Mr. A. Gnanapragasam, President of the Salesian Co-operators, and Mr. Satyanathan, the Catechist, in the name of the Parish and the Harbour locality people respectively. The Parish

Priest too said a few words. At the end Rev. Mother Superior thanked all and recommended them to have great trust in Our Blessed Lady, their Mother. She would be the one who would take care of them.

All this was crowned with a High Mass sung by the Parish Priest. The people gave a proof of their love and capability by singing and receiving Holy Communion. After Mass the blessing of Mary Help of Christians crowned everything. Here the Parish and the Harbour people feel the need of expressing their gratitude to the Rev. Sisters of the Mercy Home, and in a particular manner to Very Rev. Mother Provincial and the local Superior, Rev. Mother Stanislaus, for having given us such a great co-operation and for having undertaken this work for the poorest people among the poor of Madras. God bless them!

The Blessing of St. Joseph's Church

By M. A. S. Nathan

ENNORE, a village about 12 miles from Madras—where Ashok Leyland, Ltd., Ennore Foundries, Ltd., and other industries have been developed—witnessed an unusual scene on the evening of September 3rd, the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, when His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. L. Mathias, S.D.B., blessed and opened for public worship the newly built Church of St. Joseph. Incidentally it is worth mentioning that Ennore was a place of pilgrimage annually during the feast of its patron saint—the Solemnity of St. Joseph—on the third Sunday after Easter. It has all along been in charge of the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Joys' Church, Pulicat, Ponneri Taluk; the best

known Priest-in-charge was the late Fr. F. X. Vongola of revered memory and the incumbent up to 3rd September 1961 was the Rev. Fr. J. F. Menezes.

At 5 p.m. the place presented a grand view, with flowers and festoons all over, staring at the many hundreds of pilgrims from Madras. His Grace the Archbis-

hop and his Auxiliary were met at the entrance of the local bazaar and led in procession to the newly built church with music, followed by hundreds of Catholic and non-Catholics of Ennore and the surroundings, not to mention the large congregation of the laity from Madras who swelled the crowd. Many priests and nuns of Madras and the suburbs graced the occasion.

His Grace, assisted by V. Rev. Mgr. A. P. de Andrade and Rev. Fr. J. P. D'Souza, proceeded to perform the liturgical blessing, sprinkling the walls exteriorly and interiorly with holy water. Next followed the other liturgical ceremonies in connection with the consecration of the new granite altar. Then His Grace said a low Mass, assisted by Rev. Fr. A. J. Stanislaus, who also translated the speech of His Grace into Tamil. After the Mass His Grace formally installed the new Parish Priest, the Rev. Fr. J. A. Ross, as the first independent Parish Priest of Ennore, which now forms the 25th Parish in Madras City and suburbs. His Grace in his short and fatherly speech requested the congregation, and especially the parishioners of the new Parish, to co-operate with the Parish Priest.

Reception by the Parish

After the blessing of the new presbytery, His Grace and His Excellency Mgr. F. A. Carvalho (who graced the function with his presence, in spite of his recent illness) were given a reception by the parishioners, during which speeches were made by Miss Sheila Mason, B.A., B.T. (daughter of Mrs.

and Mr. Mason, retired Light-House Keeper) in English and in Tamil by Miss S. Theresa, Secondary Grade Teacher, R. C. M. Higher Elementary School, Pulicat. A request for a school and convent in the new Parish was made to His Grace who, in his reply, after thanking the speakers for the honour done to Bishop Carvalho and himself, said it was his ardent desire too, and he would do his best to fulfil their wishes, but he asked the congregation to pray fervently to St. Joseph that the time might come soon when they could acquire a plot of land, and then they might see the new Parish provided with a Catholic School, Convent, cemetery, etc. It is the prayerful wish of the Parishioners that soon the amenities mentioned above will be given, for the Parish will grow far wider, especially in view of the fact that the Madras Government are looking forward to making an Industrial area of the locality in the years to come. During the Mass and reception the Sisters of Mary's Convent, Pulicat, and the choir of St. Theresa's Parish, Kasimode, delighted the congregation with select hymns and songs.

Thanks are largely due to the Catholics and non-Catholics of Ennore, and especially to the Rev. Fr. J. F. Menezes, Parish Priest of Pulicat, and his band of able lay assistants. May St. Joseph the Worker, the patron-saint of the Parish, help this parish to grow more and more, and may he obtain that there will be more conversions in this vastly populated Hindu locality.

The Blessing of Vehicles and Owners

THIS year a Sunday was set aside for the blessing of vehicles and vehicle owners. This took place in the Parish of St. Francis Xavier, Broadway, on the 20th of August, 1961. It was beautifully prepared by the Catechist, Mr. Satyanadan, who faithfully went to every house in the Parish, took the census of all the bicycles, motor-cycles, etc.; and by Mr. S. H. David who took such great pains in organising the feast itself. After the census we find that in the Parish we have 112 bicycles, 5 motor-cycles, 1 auto-rickshaw, 1 car, 1 van, and 2 buses. We felt the need of having this feast celebrated for these dear people in order to have a chance to bless all their vehicles, since daily we hear of so many accidents that happen in the city, and in order to inspire Catholics with a greater spirit of faith also in this important work of handling their vehicles. They must feel the need of God's help and protection in this work of driving. They must feel that unless God's hands and Our Lady's protection are with them, something serious might happen at any moment.

A notice was sent in due time to everyone of these vehicle owners so that they could prepare themselves for this day, and their response was wonderful. A novelty, some might say, but a most welcome one. A good number came and made their confession and received the sacrament, and on the appointed day at 6-30 they had their High Mass. The weather was very bad. It threatened very much and then it was raining very heavily, but almost all were strong enough and overcame every difficulty and came on their vehicles to the Church compound and heard Mass. Immediately after Mass,

the rain stopped for a quarter of an hour and we had the chance of holding the blessing of 89 bicycles, 4 motor-cycles, 22 rickshaws, 1 auto-rickshaw, 1 van; 1 motor car, and 1 bus. They were all lined up in front of the Church, in spite of the weather. The solemn blessing took place after Mass, when the people were full of fervour due to the stirring sermon of Rev. Fr. A. J. Stanislaus, Headmaster of St. Peter's High School, Royapuram.

After the blessing of the vehicles all were prepared to have a procession. But it started raining heavily again! In spite of it, our good vehicle owners of the Parish insisted that at least a short procession around the Church should take place, and it was done. While the procession was going on the rain increased and all got drenched, especially the Parish Priest, as he has no vehicle! Everything concluded in front of the Church, after the procession, with the blessing of Mary Help of Christians imparted to the vehicle owners.

Then there was a beautiful social prepared for them, with their own personal co-operation, in the Sagayamatha Hall. It was touching to see how everyone showed such a great spirit of union and no difference was observed at all amongst them. All mixed without distinction—all those who possessed big vehicles and lower

middle-class people with bicycles were together with the poor pullers of rickshaws. The Secretary of the Parish Unit of the Catholic Workers, Mr. P. Nayagam, during the social addressed the gathering and urged them to have ever closer union and take greater part in the parish activities. He congratulated them on their enthusiasm. It was touching to see how beautifully they mingled together and engaged in friendly conversation to show how distinction does not

exist. This occasion in the Parish convinced us priests once more of the great faith of our people and of the great enthusiasm they put into everything, when it is a question of the liturgy or other activity in which they themselves are made to take an active part. May Mary Help of Christians, whose blessing has sealed their first re-union, bless these dear people and protect them from any accident whatsoever during the next year.

The Late Mother Mary Dominic

THE 23rd of August was a day of great sorrow and deep mourning for the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Vepery. The Very Rev. Mother Mary Dominic, the beloved Mother-General of the Congregation, passed away peacefully at 5.45 p.m. at the Government General Hospital, Madras, after a long illness patiently borne. R.I.P.—She had long been suffering from diabetes and blood pressure, and later other complications set in and caused her acute suffering.

She was admitted in the Hospital on Wednesday, 2nd August. The next Wednesday, she suffered much and received the Sacrament of Extreme Unction and was well prepared to meet her Divine Spouse, whom she had served so faithfully in life. Her devotion to St. Joseph was deep and profound. On three consecutive Wednesdays she had severe attacks of pain, and on the fourth Wednesday (23rd August) Our Lord put a complete stop to her earthly sufferings. In her last hours she was fully conscious and said to her spiritual daughters gathered around her, "I am going, I thank you all; make sacrifices." Then she offered herself into the hands of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Hospital Chaplain was also present at her

death. Immediately, His Grace the Archbishop and His Excellency the Auxiliary Bishop rushed to the Hospital and blessed her. Soon the body was removed to St. Joseph's Convent, Vepery.

"A Real Mother"

The Very Rev. Mother Dominic belonged to a respectable family of Bangalore. She joined the Congregation on 8th September, 1929. From the year 1947, she was the Mother General of the Congregation. She did her best for the spiritual and temporal welfare of her Sisters and of the poor children entrusted to their care, by establishing new convents, schools and orphanages. More especially she took a keen interest

in the higher education of the Sisters, so that they might be able to do greater good to the children under their care. She gave educational opportunities to many poor children, irrespective of caste or creed. We may proudly say that it was she who really built the framework of the Congregation with the generous help of His Grace the Archbishop. Her prayers were quiet; her sufferings were silent. In her financial difficulties St. Joseph was her banker.

On the 24th morning, His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. L. Mathias offered a Requiem Mass and blessed the mortal remains. In his brief address to the Sisters he said, "My dear Sisters, you have lost a real Mother." He particularly pointed out that her childlike obe-

dience to her Superiors in everything had enabled her to do many things for the Congregation. Many came to pay their last respects to her. His Excellency the Bishop of Vellore came and prayed for the repose of her soul beside the coffin, and made a speech of condolence to the Sisters. His Excellency the Rt. Rev. Dr. F. A. Carvalho officiated at the funeral ceremony, assisted by Very Rev. Mgr. A. Pereira de Andrade, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, and Very Rev. Mgr. P. L. Jeganathan, the Spiritual Director of the Congregation. Many priests and nuns of the Archdiocese, together with her spiritual daughters and the staff and students of her schools, relatives, well-wishers and parishioners were present.

ST. THOMAS' CONVENT

Transfer of Mother Dorothea

During the past few weeks many of the Superiors of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary have had a change of residence, and Rev. Mother M. Dorothea, Superior of St. Thomas' Convent for the past six years, was no exception. Within a few days after the announcement Mother was off for Tanjore, and her departure was as unobtrusive as was her manner of going about her heavy responsibilities.

During her stay, St. Thomas' Convent experienced a brisk burst of activity, as is natural in a big house like this, a hive of intense activity. With imagination and wisdom she catered for the needs

of those under her care and thereby earned their gratitude and esteem.

What we liked in her was the kindly way she spoke and in such a motherly tone. There were moments when one could even detect a gleam of humour behind the shining spectacles. Even her admonition gave us ample food for thought. Undoubtedly her simplicity, deportment and dignity warmed the air, dispelling coldness. Looking back on the past six years, who would not feel the separation? We fervently ask God to bless and guide her in her new abode.—R.M.

AROUND THE PARISHES

COVELONG

Legion Out-Door Function

The Senatus of Madras celebrated its Annual Out-Door Function this year at Covelong on Sunday the 20th August 1961.

The Legionaries from the various parts of the City arrived by 3 cars and 3 buses at 10-15 a.m. at Covelong. The Senatus President after introducing the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Joseph Thyparambil, announced the programme fixed for the day. Immediately afterwards, the Parish Priest expressed his happiness 'at the Legionaries' having come down to Covelong all the way from Madras to celebrate their Out-Door Function, for which this seaside resort was a fitting place. Their visit also coincided with the memorable day of his own birthday. The Legionaries offered their greetings for his Birthday.

After this hot coffee and biscuits were served and the Legionaries proceeded to the Church, where the Senatus Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. G. Narsilio, S.D.B., recited the opening prayers and the Holy Rosary. Following this a short sermon was preached by Fr. Joseph Thyparambil stressing the spiritual training of the members of the Legion in the way indicated in the Gospels by daily study and meditation of the New Testament.

At 12-30. p.m. lunch was served after reciting the Catena. Games were conducted by Srs. Rodrigues and Bastian and prizes were distributed.

At 4 p.m. Tea was served and, after the benediction and the

closing prayers, all the Legionaries left by their own transport back to their homes.

About 154 members participated, including two Spiritual Directors.

ST. THOMAS' CONVENT MYLAPORE

"Esther" Enacted

The pupils of St. Raphael's Girls' High School staged a Tamil Drama on Saturday, 19th August. The Biblical theme—Esther—has often been rendered on the stage as it lends itself so easily to dramatic effect. The following is a synopsis of the play that was enacted by our girls.

Assuerus, King of Persia, reigned from India to Ethiopia. The King had chosen for his queen the beautiful virgin Esther, the adopted daughter of Mardochai, a Jew. She never revealed her Jewish descent, in obedience to her uncle Mardochai, who used to station himself at the gates of the palace to get news of Esther from her attendants. It so happened that he heard two of the courtiers conspiring against the King's life. The Queen was duly apprised of this. She in turn informed her lord and the conspirators were duly punished. This episode was inscribed in the chronicles of the Kingdom.

Aman rose high in the King's estimation and was made the first prince of the court. All the servants of the King bent their knees and worshipped Aman. Mardochai would not render to any man

the honour reserved to God alone. This infuriated Aman, who in turn swore that he would exterminate all the Jews in the country.

The order issued by the king was communicated to the various parts of the realm. Mardochai approached Esther and informed her of the king's edict. He entreated her to intercede on behalf of her people. Even the queen was forbidden to see the king without his prior permission. Yet relying on Jehovah, she risked her life. The king was however pleased to see her, and even agreed to attend with Aman the banquet arranged by her.

While going through the Chronicles, the king was reminded of the signal service rendered by Mardochai. The king consulted Aman as to the mode of honouring best one of his faithful servants. Aman, thinking that the king intended him for this honour, suggested that the person should be taken in royal costume on the king's horse and proclaimed aloud as one deserving honour. Aman was much chagrined when he saw that all this was intended for Mardochai.

The banquet was held in great splendour. The king offered to do anything which his queen wanted of him. Esther begged him to deliver her Jewish brethren from the clutches of Aman. An order revoking the earlier edict was sent all through the land, much to the dismay and sorrow of Aman. Evil-doers come to an evil end. Ultimately everything breathes forth God, peace and truth.

The children prepared for the play with enthusiasm and joy,

they instinctively captured the religious atmosphere of the soul-stirring episode. The aspirations of the Jewish people, the longing for liberty, the yearning for freedom, and finally, joy in the triumph of the beautiful Queen, Esther. The colourful scenes, the glittering costumes, the music and dances blended in making the drama attractive and appealing.

We hope and pray that the role of Esther pleading on behalf of all the people may remind our children of Our Lady, whose mission it is to protect and save all the children of the human race.

VOTIVE SHRINE, KILPAUK

Titular Feast

The Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Kilpauk, celebrated its titular feast with solemnity and devotion.

The novena in preparation for the feast began on the 13th August, and it must be recorded that, in spite of the inclement weather, there was a fair attendance each evening at the devotions and Benediction.

On the feast day, 22nd August, a High Mass was sung at 6-30 a.m. by the Very Rev. Fr. S. P. Carmel, the Parish Priest. The attendance at the High Mass, and also at an earlier Low Mass, was very good, and the number of communicants at both Masses was gratifying. After the second Mass 500 poor were fed; this was an offering in honour of Our Lady by some of the parishioners.

The day was cloudy and weather forecasts were unfavour-

able, but the large congregation that was present at the evening Service showed that devoted clients of Mary were not deterred by the weather prophets. Our Lady was not to be outdone in generosity and she rewarded her children with fine weather.

The occasion was also the Archdiocesan Thanksgiving Day, the Service commencing at 6.30 p.m. The statue of the Blessed Virgin was carried in procession, the Rosary was recited and appropriate hymns sung. His Grace, the Archbishop, preached an inspiring sermon on the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the origin of the cult. This was then translated in Tamil by Rev. Fr. A. J. Adaikalam. The *Te Deum* was sung, followed by the renewal of the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was imparted by His Grace. The Service closed with the singing of the Hymn to Our Lady of Fatima.

His Excellency, Bishop Carvalho was present at the Thanksgiving Service, and many of the Clergy and nuns also attended. The success of the celebrations was due in large measure to the co-operation of members of the pious Associations of the Parish. The Choir is to be congratulated on its efficient rendering of the Mass and choice hymns. The enthusiasm of the members is commendable, for in spite of many handicaps much effort was made to attend the special practices in preparation for the Feast. Special mention must also be made of those who were responsible for the tasteful decora-

tion of the altar and ear, and of the processional route, and for the illuminations.

• Study Circle Meeting

The Tamil Study Circle meeting of the parish was held on 6th August 1961, when Mr. A. Vana-thian spoke on the necessity of religion. He stated that once man acknowledges God as his Creator and depends upon Him for the preservation of his life, then it stands to reason that he should worship Him and order his moral conduct according to the way pointed out by Him. It is only the Catholic Church which makes a claim that it is the true religion and all other religions are false; because Christianity rests on definite facts which reveal a divine origin while Hinduism does not show any such origin. If as history shows, Christ was a Divine Messenger from God, of reliable and truthful character, then the rest of the Christian system follows. But in the case of Hinduism, history does not show that the doings of their gods were divine occurrences or even historical facts.

An interesting discussion followed the speech. The spiritual director Rev. Fr. S. P. Carmel in his concluding remarks said that religion is not only a reasonable virtue, but a necessary one. It is part of the virtue of justice which consists in rendering to everyone what is due to him. But surely our first duty is to God. This is the first Commandment.

The next topic of discussion will be "the Supernatural State of Man".

New Encyclical Discussed

A meeting of the Kilpauk unit of the Newman Association, was held on the 20th August 1961. Prof. Rajendran, the President of the Unit, was in the Chair and Rev. Fr. Nevett, S.J., Loyola College, Madras, addressed the meeting. Fr. Nevett was formerly attached to the Institute of Social Science, Poona, and in introducing him Prof. Rajendran said that Fr. Nevett was now conducting a Diploma Course in Social Service at the Loyola College.

Fr. Nevett chose as his subject the latest Encyclical of Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra*, on the social question. In the course of his talk Fr. Nevett referred to the two previous Social Encyclicals, namely, *Rerum Novarum* of Pope Leo XIII in 1891, and Pope Pius XI's *Quadragesimo Anno* issued in 1931 to mark the 40th anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*. The latest encyclical, the longest ever published, was timed to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Pope Leo's Encyclical.

The new encyclical begins by referring to the teachings of the first two social encyclicals. The Holy Father then sets forth principles to guide mankind in the modern changed social conditions, in fact adapting the principles already given by his predecessors.

Fr. Nevett dealt with the more important points of the encyclical. There was the question of "social service" schemes, where the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. Next he spoke about remuneration for work, which must be based on standards of justice and equity. The Holy

Father referred to the enormous waste of national income when spent to build up national prestige or for unnecessary and exorbitant defence programmes.

The new encyclical, like the earlier ones, recommended the participation of workers in the management of industry, and a sharing of profits between the management, shareholders and workers. In order to safeguard the interests of small companies and individual concerns, co-operatives were suggested. The need for private property was also stressed as a safeguard of liberty.

In view of his special interest in the agriculturist, Pope John has introduced a new point. Agriculture, he said, was a depressed part of the community, whether from the standpoint of productivity or of the standard of living of its people. The Pope said that the State should take steps to improve the conditions of the rural population and to bring them on a par with those in the industrial sector. As the agriculturists have greater risks and slower returns than the industrialists, they should be taxed less.

Other points dealt with by the Pope were price fixation, population increase, and economic problems in general. Regarding the differences between nations, the Pope said he was pleased to note that the present reaction of the richer nations to the poorer ones was very good. He referred, however, to the fair distribution of goods received, as sometimes these do not reach the people for whom they are intended, but are diverted to other channels.

The Church was concerned with the complete good of the people, physical as well as spiritual. The purpose of social encyclicals was to suggest a solution to social problems and to be a guide to social peace.

Fr. Nevett then answered a few questions raised by members, and the meeting terminated with a prayer.

RAYAPURAM

Y.C.W. "Amateur Night"

The Young Christian Workers of the Rayapuram section brought up an "Amateur Night" at 7 P.M. on Saturday the 19th August 1961, at the Fatima Hall, Rayapuram. The hall which was beautifully decorated for the occasion was fairly packed with girls and boys, amateurs, yet talented in singing, dancing and playing musical instruments.

At the stroke of 7 P.M. the curtain dropped and the programme opened with a welcome address by Miss Jean Hendry, followed by the singing of the "Opening Chorus" by the members. There were as many as 22 items on the programme. Songs by the Hendry Sisters and Misses Philo Suares and E. Rozario of Rayapuram are worth mentioning, for they kept the audience spell-bound by their beautiful voices which had the combination of pitch and melody throughout. The Square Dance performed by the girls was very creditable; from their stepping and postures, one could understand the gracefulness of the art. Songs by Misses Jean Ballard, B. Angelo, H. Duprat and J. Bastian, and

music by Mr. M. Monnisse and brothers, were well sung and played respectively, with a gusto that was beyond one's expectations, so much so that all were looking up at the stage for more items.

Four prizes and two consolation prizes were awarded to the competitors. The judges were Mr. J. Rozario of the Madras Customs, Mrs. Rodrigues and Mrs. Vincent of Rayapuram. The prizes were given away by Very Rev. Fr. G. H. Lourdes, Parish Priest of Rayapuram.

Although the Y.C.W. section of Rayapuram is still in its infant stage, it is marvellous how a few members could have brought up a function of this kind with such great success.

Titular Feast

The members of the Assumption Sodality celebrated the feast of Our Lady's Assumption with a Triduum at which Rev. Fr. P. C. Balaswamy preached an inspiring sermon. The evening service consisted of enrolment of three aspirants as members, followed by a procession (which had to be abruptly curtailed owing to a downpour of rain), Rosary and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Mater Dolorosa Club

A large crowd of interested spectators flocked to the Fatima Hall on Sunday the 27th August to witness the final of a Table Tennis Tournament run by the club, for its members. The news that two Madras State Players would play an exhibition match somehow got around and was, in

the main, responsible for the large gathering present. The evening's proceedings opened with the doubles final, which Tony D'Souza and Jimmy Patel won against Cedric Daly and Terence Mckertich after a keenly contested game.

The exhibition match next followed between Miss Audrey Blankley and M. Andrews, both of whom gave the spectators a delightful insight into the finer points of the game and evoked frequent applause.

The singles final between Carlisle Lane and Gladwyn Fraser which figured next on the programme provided a good deal of excitement, as fortune fluctuated alternately once in favour of one and then the other, and eventually ended in a win for the former by a narrow margin.

In requesting Rev. Fr. G. H. Lourdes to distribute the prizes, Mr. M. C. D'Souza, the General Secretary of the Club, dwelt on the reasons which had prompted him to announce the staging of a tournament and said he had been agreeably surprised by the amount of interest it had evoked not only among the participants but—as indicated by the large gathering present—even among the parishioners as a whole. He felt, he said, that such tournaments should be held at more frequent intervals. He congratulated the winners and wished them further success.

After the prizes had been given away, the General Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to all those who had, by their presence, been a source of encouragement to the players. He thanked, in particular,

the two State Players for so kindly responding to their invitation and giving the spectators an exhibition of classic Table-Tennis.

ST. JOSEPH'S, VEPERY

Jubilee of Mr. J. C. Bouvard

Mr. J. C. Bouvard, Prefect of the Assumption Sodality of St. Joseph's, Vepery, Madras, who has held office almost continuously for a number of years and who is a familiar figure in all the activities of the Parish, completed the golden jubilee of his consecration as a sodalist on the 15th August 1961. To commemorate the occasion, the Council of the Assumption Sodality decided to celebrate the event in a befitting manner as a proof of the esteem in which the Jubilarian is held and to show their appreciation of his good work. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. L. Mathias, Archbishop of Madras, kindly consented to preside on the occasion.

On 15th August 1961, Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, after High Mass and General Communion the Sodalists gathered together for a group photo. This was arranged by Mr. D. V. D'Monte, an old friend and admirer of the Jubilarian. The members then adjourned to St. Joseph's Hall where Chota Hazari was served. The Immaculate Conception (Ladies) Sodality and a number of guests also attended. After refreshments were served, the Rev. Fr. P. J. Lobo, Parish Priest and Spiritual Adviser, addressed the gathering. In a brief speech he eulogised the good work done in the Parish by Mr. J. C. Bouvard. An address

was then read, and a gold chain and medal were presented to the Jubilarian.

His Grace, the Archbishop then addressed the gathering. In warm and affectionate terms he showed his appreciation of the work done by Mr. J. C. Bouvard in the Parish and informed the members that he had applied and obtained from the Holy Father a special blessing for the Jubilarian. He expressed his desire that people of the calibre of Mr. J. C. Bouvard be found in every Association and Parish.

After a vote of thanks, the function terminated with a hymn to Our Lady. The Jubilarian was the recipient of numerous congratulatory messages and gifts from his friends and admirers.

BROADWAY

"Centenary Souvenirs"

A resolution was passed at a meeting of representatives of the seven sections of the Parish of St. Francis Xavier that a statue of Mary Help of Christians should be erected in every section of the Parish.

After the solemn centenary celebrations held in December, 1960, serious thought has been given also to the realization of this plan of the Parishioners. The Catholics of the particular section are expected to give their contribution, and the rest is made up by the Parish Priest.

On July 22nd, the Help of Christians Section erected its own monument at Pedariyar Koil Street, No. 19. In the morning there was Holy Mass for the

Catholics of the Section and in the evening a procession to the place of the small monument, which was blessed by the parish priest. The rain came just at the time of the blessing to spoil much of the solemnity, but it did not prevent the Parishioners from showing their great love towards Mary Help of Christians.

May the 'Help of Christians' protect 'Her Parish' and 'Her Section' in a special manner.

After the service the following document was read to the people: "This Centenary Celebration Souvenir, the Statue of Mary Help of Christians, has been erected in Mr. Amalanathan's property, i.e., 19, Pedariar Koil Street, G.T., Madras, as homage to Our Blessed Lady on the part of the Catholics of Pedariar Koil Street and Lane, who have contributed towards it the sum of Rs. 40/- for the expenses, which amount to Rs. 234/-.

The amount spent over and above the contribution of Rs. 40/- i.e., Rs. 194/- has been given from the Parish Church Funds.

The Parish, and in particular the Catholics of Pedariar Koil Street and Lane, thank Mr. Amalanathan for his kindness in allowing them to erect the Souvenir on his property.

Harbour Chapel

The Harbour people have shown always a great heart and a great union in the Parish activities and undertakings. They have shown in a particular manner exemplary generosity, though living in utter misery. Upto now they are superior to every section in the Parish, having collected

Rs. 50/- to have the Centenary memorial statue erected in their chapel. Though the erection took place in the month of February, the blessing and the crowning of the statue could take place only on the 15th August, Feast of the Assumption. The ceremony was performed by the Parish Priest amid the enthusiasm of the people who did not mind the bad weather, since their love towards Our Blessed Lady is so great. These harbour people deserve special praise for their union and co-operation, and in a particular manner for their good spirit. This monument erected in honour of Mary Help of Christians by them speaks of their love towards their Heavenly Mother and of their union with their priests.

St. Vincent De Paul's Day

On July 19th, the Conference of St. Vincent De Paul, on the feast of their own saint, wanted their clients to enjoy in a particular manner. The Parish Priest said Mass at 7-15, 'at the Altar of Mary Help of Christians, for all the clients of the Society and for all the poor people. All of them were around the altar; they received Holy Communion and followed Holy Mass with great piety, singing in their own way some beautiful hymns. After the Holy Mass, which was assisted at also by the members of the Society, a breakfast was given to the clients and to the poor people of the Parish, and together with the breakfast a parcel, so that they should enjoy also during the day. For this organisation we say a particular word of thanks to Mr. Gaspar Fernando,

the President, to Mr. David, who has been the soul of the organisation of this feast, to Mr. Baldwin, who took so much interest in the association and the clients, and to Mr. Kolandaswamy, who so patiently for the last 5 years assists all the poor people twice a day and, as a father, looks after them and feeds them. To these and to all the members of the Society our congratulations and the gratitude of the parish.

Liturgical Exhibition

A splendid liturgical exhibition was held in the Sagayamathu Hall for eight days, from Sunday 27th August to Sunday 3rd September. Over 70,000 people flocked to the exhibition and spent much time learning about Holy Mass and the sacraments depicted in a graphic and realistic manner. Here are two unsolicited letters of appreciation sent by students of Madras Schools:—

"We would like to show our appreciation of the well organised and highly instructive Liturgical Exhibition you so kindly invited us to see.

We were very impressed by the way the different stages of the Mass were depicted and the connection of these stages with the events of Our Lord's life on earth.

We were most happy to be able to have a close look at all the sacred vessels, the sick-call box, and the beautiful vestments and altar-cloths.

The Resurrection of Our Lord was shown most beautifully by the beautiful casket and stand.

The Exhibition was really worth while and was well worth all the strenuous preparation that must have gone into making it such a wonderful success. We liked it very much."

"We, the Junior Training Students, wish to offer you our heartfelt thanks for inviting us to your Liturgical Exhibition which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Many of us have never had the great privilege of attending a liturgical exhibition before, so this was a new and grand experience for us, from which we learnt much.

The association of the Bloody Sacrifice of Calvary with the Unbloody Sacrifice of the Mass impressed us greatly.

The lifelike illustration of Mount Calvary on the stage had a realistic effect and gave the impression that labour and artistic taste were generously combined.

Many other things besides these were highly appreciated by us and we wish to offer you our congratulations and sincere gratitude."

CHINTADRIPET

Farewell to

Fr. Joseph Kuchirakatt

The news of the transfer and appointment of Rev. Father A. Joseph Kuchirakatt as the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Mulasur, came as a surprise to the parishioners of Chintadripet Church. Though the parishioners realised fully well that he had all the ability to be an efficient Parish Priest, they never thought that he would be taken away from them so soon. The news therefore of

his transfer was a very sad one for them. It is true that they felt a certain amount of satisfaction in the fact that he was raised to the position of a Parish Priest.

The Parish Priest and the Parishioners felt it their duty to express their gratitude towards him. With this view in mind, they got up a very modest function on Sunday 27th August 1961 at 7 p.m. Addresses were read in Tamil and English and a purse, the expression of the debt of gratitude the Parishioners owed him, was presented to him on that occasion. In his reply Rev. Father Kuchirakatt thanked the Parish Priests and the Parishioners for all the love and affection they had lavished on him, during his stay of one year and seven months in the parish.

He left the Parish on Thursday the 31st August 1961, accompanied by the Parish Priest, and took charge of his new Parish on Friday 1st September 1961. He carries with him the warm assurances of all the Parishioners of Chintadripet of a prayerful remembrance of him.

Reception to the New Assistant

Rev. Father Joseph Kottoor, so long the Assistant at St. Theresa's, Cassimode, and a classmate of Rev. Fr. Joseph Kuchirakatt, took charge as the Assistant Parish Priest of Chintadripet Church, on the 1st Friday of September 1961. He came and sang High Mass at 6-30 a.m. in the morning. After the Mass the Parishioners gathered around him to welcome him to the Parish. In the address which they read they assured him of their wholehearted co-operation. He thanked them for their warm wel-

come and expressed his great pleasure at being in their midst and assured them that he would work hard for the welfare of the Parish. May God Bless Our New Assistant with health and all the graces necessary for fulfilling his duties to the satisfaction of his Divine Master.

LUZ CHURCH

Corpus Christi ; Titular Feast

A deep fervour and faith marked this year's celebration of the annual feast of Our Lady of Light, the titular feast of this Church, held on the 15th August, Assumption Day. It was preceded by a preparatory novena initiated with the hoisting of the flag of Our Lady of Luz, on Saturday 5th August, heralding the commencement of a dedicated period of prayers and devotions. Stirring sermons were preached by the Rev. Frs. Nazarene Rodriguez and S. Antony.

The parish Corpus Christi feast was observed with great splendour on Monday 14th August. In the morning of this auspicious day an event of deep joy in the parish was the blessing and opening of the newly installed grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. For the instruction of the less educated parishioners, as well as the non-Christians around who are evincing interest in the grotto, a special pamphlet in Tamil was prepared, recapitulating the entire series of apparitions of Our Lady at Lourdes. The entire cost of the construction of the grotto was donated by the renowned film-star Sri Ranjan who, though a Hindu, had, from the time of his personal visit to

Lourdes, harboured a desire to build a grotto in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes. His Grace the Archbishop blessed the grotto and said the first Mass at its altar, assisted by Very Rev. Mgrs. A. Pereira de Andrade and P. L. Jaganathan. His Grace in his sermon thanked the donor and Mr. A. S. A. Samy, well known film director and a very active parishioner, who was instrumental in having the grotto built. He also thanked the parish priest, the contractor and the parishioners.

The Previous Grotto

Incidentally, it is recalled that this is not the first grotto at Luz. In the year 1919 a grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes had been built by the then parish priest, Very Rev. Mgr. M. Motha Vaz, at present Vicar General of the diocese of Tanjore, to commemorate the fourth centenary of this Church, which is the oldest Church in Madras. But it did not last many years. It was subsequently demolished to make room for the existing two-storeyed presbytery. The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes which was in the grotto was placed in the Church temporarily to be taken back to the grotto which was to be built on a suitable site. Accordingly the same statue was placed in the new grotto which is built on an imposing site, overlooking the public road.

In the evening, the Corpus Christi procession was held. The compound was packed to overflowing with parishioners, seminarians, nuns, school children and a good number of priests. The Very Rev. Mgr. R. Arulappa offi-

olated. The entire route was beautifully decorated with floral bunting on either side. A colourful carpet of "kolam" was artistically laid out by the legionaries. A halt was made at St. Isabel's Hospital compound where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given. With a final Benediction at the grotto, the eventful day came to an end. It has to be noted that the days preceding and following were rainy; especially in the evening, but thanks be to God, this day was wonderfully clear.

Feast-day Procession

On the 15th August, Solemn High Mass was sung by the parish priest ably assisted by the choir.

In the evening a car procession was scheduled to take place. The car was beautifully decorated, but could not be taken out due to heavy rain. Perhaps, it was deliberate on the part of Our Lady, to give a lesson to some of the parishioners who, though very keen to take part in the car procession, did not consider the Corpus Christi procession of the previous evening important enough for them to take part in. Thus, with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the functions came to an end.

Mention must be made of the illuminations and interior decorations generously contributed by Sri A. S. A. Samy, as also the devoted parishioners who donated their "mite" and assembled in large numbers to make the entire eventful week of devotions and prayers a splendid success.

By Lawrence Joseph.

SAN THOME

Feast of Our Lady of Mysapore

The external solemnity of the annual Feast of Our Lady of Mysapore, the Principal Patroness of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore, took place on 27-8-1961. It was preceded by a solemn Novena consisting of Rosary, Holy Mass and prayers every evening.

The last three days of the Novena were specially dedicated to fostering 'vocations'. Special sermons were given on the topic and prayers were offered for the intention. It was felt that this conjoining of special prayers for vocations with the Feast of the Principal Patroness of the Archdiocese would be doubly efficacious in obtaining good and numerous vocations, especially to the priesthood.

On 26th August, the actual Feast Day, in the evening at 6 there was a solemn High Mass during which the Epistle and Gospel were read in English from the pulpit by the sub-deacon and Deacon respectively, after they had been sung in Latin as usual. The Mass—2nd Tone of H. du Mont—was beautifully rendered by a choir of more than 100 children who had been trained by Mr. Joseph John, one of the choir members of the Basilica. Particularly impressive was the Introit and the 'alleluia' sung by the whole choir of children Fr. J. E. De'Souza preached during the Mass.

On Sunday 28th August, at 7 a.m. there was Pontifical High Mass, by His Excellency the

Rt. Rev. F. Carvalho, Auxiliary Bishop. The Epistle and Gospel were read in Tamil after they had been sung in Latin. The same children's choir was in attendance.

In the evening at 4-30, there was an imposing procession along Rosary Church Road, Kutcheri Road, Appu Mudali Street, through the Parish of Our Lady of Guidance, San Thome High Road; back to the Basilica.

The route was gaily decorated with flags, festoons and arches. Special credit for these decorations goes to the members of St. Thomas' Club who were assisted by the young members of the newly opened Youth Centre and the members of the Y. C. W. Basilica Unit. Mr. M. K. Swamy deserves special mention for having decorated a good part of Appu Mudali Street.

When the Procession halted in front of the grotto in the Basilica compound, Very Rev. Mgr. P. L. Jaganathan preached a stirring sermon in Tamil, on Our Lady the Mediatrix of all Graces.

With the Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament the celebration came to a close.

Youth Centre

15th August 1961, the 14th anniversary of Indian Independence, was a memorable day in the history of St. Thomas' Club. For, on that day, among cheers and clapping of hands, the Very Rev. Mgr. R. Arulappa, D.D., the president of the Club, officially declared open a 'Youth Centre' as a section of the above Club, for the Catholic

boys of San Thome, particularly for the Altar-Servers of the Cathedral Basilica.

The function commenced in the compound with the unfurling of the National Flag by Thiru. I. Arokiasamy, M.A., the Vice-President of the Club, and chairman for the day's celebration. It was followed by two small speeches, one in English and another in Tamil, by Master J. Balasundar and S. Thomas Peter respectively. A vote of thanks was then proposed by Master Clement Devotta, the new Secretary of the Youth Centre.

The inaugural function then continued in the hall of the Club. Master Xavier Devotta, the Leader of the Youth Centre, welcomed the gathering while Master Brian Taylor, the Deputy Leader of the Centre, garlanded the Chairman. Thiru. Joseph John, the General Secretary of St. Thomas' Club, explained the purpose of this new institution and requested the President to declare it open.

The President in his reply observed that the centre was certainly going to satisfy a long felt need. He exhorted the youngsters to avail themselves of the opportunities offered here and become models of discipline and Christian behaviour to the other boys in San Thome. He then cut the ribbon and declared the Centre open.

Those invited, as well as the members of the centre, were then entertained to tea, after which the chairman distributed the prizes to the winners in sports which had been conducted during the weeks before the inauguration.

In his concluding remarks the Chairman remarked how unity among Indians obtained for them freedom from the alien rule. The members of this centre should foster such unity among themselves, considering themselves as members of one big family, and obeying their parents at home, their pastors in the Parish, their teachers in School, and their elders in the Club.

Noteworthy was the spiritual preparation of the boys for this event. They had in all offered 3,000 Hail Marys in honour of our Heavenly Mother.

Master Brian Taylor proposed a vote of thanks and the whole function ended with the singing of "Ave Maria!".

MYLAPORE

Dhyana Ashram

A Retreat in English for Lady Teachers was held in August, the Preacher being Fr. S. Arulsami, S.J. The total number of retreatants was 59. Of these as many as 42 came from the two convents of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at San Thome and Mambalam.

Institutions from which the retreats came: 1) Holy Angels', Mambalam: 18; 2) Rosary Matriculation School: 21; 3) St. Joseph's Training School: 1; 4) St. Raphael's High School: 1; 5) Stella Matutina College: 1; 6) Gopalapuram School: 2; 7) St. Anne's, Royapuram: 4; 8) Bon Secours Kindergarten School: 4; 9) St. Antony' High School: 2; 10) Devoton Corrie: 2; 11) Cuddapah: 1; 12) St. Bede's: 1.

HOLY ANGELS', T. NAGAR

Mother Jeanne de France Transferred

It is rarely that the departure of a Mother Superior evokes such a spontaneous outburst of grief as was witnessed on the 4th of September when Mother Marie Jeanne de France, F.M.M., left the Holy Angels' Convent, Theagarayanagar, on transfer to Coimbatore after a stay of almost ten years. Every heart was heavy and every eye was moist, for Mother Jeanne de France had endeared herself to children, teachers and even to the employees and slum-dwellers, by the patient hearing she gave to woes and grievances; by the sympathy she showed to those in suffering, and by her readiness to accept the poor as boarders, as day pupils or as domestic helps, even when hard pressed for accommodation or when finances were low. During her tenure of office the premises of Holy Angels' underwent a transformation—the private school was housed in a solid brick building pleasantly designed and pleasantly furnished; a neat cottage was built to provide a practical training in Home Science such as our girls need, a science laboratory came into existence to give a training in the physical sciences to the pupils in the high school; two up-to-date gymnasia were fitted up with the apparatus for physical exercise and games, and the senior girls under the guidance of nuns were trained in social and catechetical service to the Christians in the neighbouring slums. An electric cooker was installed in the kitchen and the girls were

taught cookery with three kinds of fuel—firewood, kerosene, and electricity. The spiritual aspect of the children's training has always received the utmost attention—liturgical participation in the Mass, answering the responses in Latin, singing the more common tunes at High Mass, regular catechism classes at which pictorial aids and film-strips are used for more efficient teaching. Mother's aim was always to equip the girls for life, spiritually and materially, and many were helped to train themselves as teachers, nurses, or stenographers. In recent years she has helped destitute children to enjoy a summer holiday at a hill station. Her kindness and solicitude have been impressed deeply on the hearts of all she has left behind in the convent at Mambalam and they will always treasure the remembrance of her motherly benevolence with gratitude and affection.—D. P.

NOTICES

Fr. C. Mauri Burse

The first contribution to the Burse instituted in memory of the late Very Rev. Fr. C. Mauri, S.D.B., Rector of the Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee, comes from a layman in Little Mount parish who has sent Rs. 250 and wishes to remain anonymous. We trust many laymen and priests will follow this illustrious example soon, and send their contributions to the Rector of the Sacred Heart Seminary for the education of a student to the priesthood for the full course of seven years in the major seminary.

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

Changes of Superiors

Rev. Mother Oliveria : Transferred from Stella Maris Convent, Madras, to St. Francis' Convent, Coimbatore.

Rev. Mother Carla Rosa : Stella Maris Convent, Madras.

Rev. Mother Dorothea : Transferred from St. Thomas' Convent, Madras, to Sacred Heart Convent, Tanjore.

Rev. Mother Etelvina : Transferred from Sacred Heart Convent, Tanjore, to St. Thomas' Convent, Myslapore.

Rev. Mother Luan : Transferred from St. Dominic's Convent, St. Thomas' Mount, to Holy Angels' Convent, Mambalam.

Rev. Mother Margaret Mary : Transferred from St. Francis' Convent, Coimbatore, to St. Dominic's Convent, St. Thomas' Mount.

Rev. Mother Juanis : Transferred from Holy Apostles' Convent, St. Thomas' Mount, to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent, Manapad.

Rev. Mother Michel-Alexis : Transferred from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent, Manapad, to Holy Apostles' Convent, St. Thomas' Mount.

Rev. Mother Jeanne de France : Transferred from Holy Angels' Convent, Mambalam, to Immaculate Conception Convent, Coimbatore.

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATIONS

- 3-9-1961:** The new Parish Church in Ennore dedicated to St. Joseph the Worker was solemnly blessed and the altar was consecrated by His Grace the Most Rev. Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, who then celebrated Mass in honour of the Titular Saint. The new Presbytery was blessed after the Mass.
- 4-9-1961:** His Grace the Most Rev. Archbishop has deputed Very Rev. Mgr. D. Raju, Diocesan Inspector of Schools (Tamil-medium), to organise a two days' Conference of Teachers for establishing a Teachers' Guild (Tamil-medium teachers) and explaining the Munich or psychological method of teaching Catechism in Tamil. The Conference will be held at St. Thomas' Convent, Mylapore, on the 9th. and 10th. October 1961 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2-30 to 5 p.m. The fee for lunch and tea daily is Re. 1, and for the full stay of two days from the 9th. morning till tea on the 10th., Rs. 3/- only. Teachers should bring their own bedding, toilet articles, etc. Teachers and Managements will share equally the expenses of travelling and boarding. The schools will be closed for these days. For further details about residence, etc., please write to the Diocesan Inspector of Schools, Mgr. D. Raju, St. Andrew's Church, Vepery, Madras-7.
- 15-9-1961:** Feast of the Seven Dolours of B. V. Mary. First Class Feast with I and II Vespers in Mater Dolorosa Parish, Royapuram, being the Titular of the Parish Church. Office and Mass Festive.
- 2-10-1961:** Monthly Recollection meeting for the Clergy at the Archbishop's House, Mylapore.
- 3-10-1961:** Monthly Recollection Meeting for the Clergy at St. Thomas' Mount.
- 3-10-1961:** Feast of St. Teresa of the Infant Jesus, Principal Patron of the Missions and Titular of the Church of Kasimode and of the Public Oratory of Pondur. First Class Feast in the Archdiocese. Festive Office with I and II Vespers for all the Priests. Gloria and Credo.
- 4-10-1961:** Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. First Class Feast in the Mission Church of Wallajabad. Festive Office with I and II Vespers. Gloria and Credo.
- 11-10-1961:** Feast of Maternity of B. V. Mary. Titular of the Church of the Retreat House, Mylapore. Festive Office with I and II Vespers.
- 22-10-1961:** MISSION SUNDAY: Special collections to be made in all Churches and Oratories in the Archdiocese and forwarded to the Rev. Treasurer, Archbishop's House, within two weeks.

A. Pereira de Andrade,
Chancellor.